

464/11(1)

INFANT ASYLUM,
FOR THE
PRESERVING OF THE LIVES,
OF
CHILDREN
OF
HIRED WET-NURSES,
AND OTHERS:

AND FOR THE
Removing of the Risks and Difficulties
IN OBTAINING
HEALTHY and REPUTABLE WET-NURSES,
AND
EXPERIENCED DRY-NURSES.

*“ Even so, it is not the will of your Father which is in
“ Heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.”*
St. Matt. xviii. 14.

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1799.



PATRONESS,
HER MOST SACRED MAJESTY
THE QUEEN.

VICE PATRONESSES,
Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales,
Her Royal Highness the Duchess of York.

PRESIDENT,
The Earl of Shaftsbury.

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The Right Honorable Lord Carrington,
The Honorable Charles Fulk Greville, M. P.
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William Manning, Esq. M. P.
Henry Hugh Hoare, Esq.

TREASURER,
Henry Hoare, Esq.

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OTHER

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MATRON,

Elizabeth Howard.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are taken by

The Treasurer, at Messrs. Hoare's, Fleet Street,
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 The Matron, at the Asylum,

and the following Bankers :

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NATURE

NATURE AND ADVANTAGES

OF THIS

INSTITUTION.

INSTITUTIONS have been formed for the relief of almost every misery and misfortune to which the indigent class of our fellow creatures is subject, and to which their humble situations in life have exposed them without hope of redress, but from the assistance of public charities. Through the same spirit of humanity and unwearied benevolence
toward

toward the unfortunate which so eminently distinguishes this country, the present institution has been established ; and the numerous advantages derivable from it to every rank of society, render it the peculiar object of general patronage.

Its principal design is to preserve the lives of the infant children of those poor women, whose indigent circumstances oblige them to nurse the children of the more opulent. The neglect which this necessity exposes their own offspring to, is not only the cause of bitter pangs to the parents from separation, but often from the death of their children, who fall early victims of neglect, or live but to drag on a miserable existence of premature old age.

Thus

Thus they become a loss or a burden where they should be a support----to parents and society.

It is believed by those who have the best means of information upon this subject that four-fifths of the children of hired wet-nurses, who are born healthy and of perfect form, die within the year for want of care and attention; and that of those few who do escape into life, many are sickly, distorted, and filled with innumerable diseases, from premature weaning, and being exposed to the neglect and ignorance of mercenary dry-nurses. Let but the mind in its humanity contemplate, that the cause of these misfortunes was want of due attention to these un-

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happy

happy beings in helpless infancy, when their fond mothers were obliged to dispose of that succour to others which was intended by God and Nature for the nourishment of their own offspring. Let the parent put this case of hard necessity to her own bosom, and ask herself if she would not bless that benevolence which stretched out its hand and smoothed its lap to protect and receive her little one?

It may be urged by some cold calculators of remuneration, that these unfortunate mothers are paid from the purses of the opulent for that succour which their more fortunate infants derive from them. But what compensation can be made to a mother for the miseries entailed upon her
child?

child?---what compensation can be made to a man for the loss of health and constitution?---what compensation can be made to our country for the loss or sacrifice of one member of society? However humble the birth of man may be, he has a situation to fill which is important. The place assigned to him by providence may be low, but still that link is necessary to the subsistence of the whole. The poor man adds a contributory share to the comfort of the great.

As it is no doubt the first and most anxious thought of every fond and affluent mother to procure a healthy and reputable wet-nurse for her infant, consequently the calm and quiet state of mind of that nurse is worthy of her most serious

consideration. But what must be the feelings and agitations of her, who is obliged through necessity to abandon her own child to the care of another, whose only object is the scanty and miserable pittance that the slender circumstances of the mother can afford. With a child thus exposed to all the dangers of human life, if not to death, what effect must an endless chain of bitter reflections have upon the general health of the unfortunate mother ! Affection is not the sole prerogative of any rank of life, as those who will look into the habitations and intercourse of the poor may gratify themselves with observing. And how greatly frustrated may the object be which the opulent parent has in view, should the secret sorrow, preying upon the bosom of her who is to give health and strength

strength to her infant, not be dispelled. If then the opulent expect to receive the full measure of assistance from the indigent, let the bond of affection be sealed between them, and the security from misery be made mutually perfect.

Surely therefore the necessity of this institution presents itself with a forcible appeal to the heart, where the infants of every member of the community of hired wet-nurses will receive all the care and attention that their helpless age requires from the best of nurses; where they will receive the best medical assistance from that humanity and skill which have benevolently offered their gratuitous services to the Asylum, through a conviction

viction of the necessity of the establishment, and from those melancholy observations which they have unavoidably made in the course of their long practice.

From the peculiar and benevolent patronage which Her Majesty, in the fond affections and feelings of a parent to the poor, has so graciously condescended to bestow upon this institution, and from the prevailing influence of Her Majesty's most sacred and religious character, every hope is built of the most ample support. And the kind protection which the objects of it will receive, from being placed immediately under the care of the following high female characters, who, possessing all the principles of humanity have deigned

deigned to act as a committee of visitants, in order to watch over the internal management of these children; ---- this must give every public assurance of care, and calm every private disquietude of the fond mother respecting her infant offspring :

Duchess of Devonshire,
 Countess of Derby,
 Countess Cholmondeley,
 Countess of Hardwicke,
 Countess Spencer,
 Countess Fortescue,
 Countess of Beverley,
 Countess of Mansfield,
 Countess of Belborough,
 Countess Conyngham,
 Lady Vernon,
 Lady George Cavendish,
 Lady Ann Ashley,

Lady

Lady Elizabeth Palk,
 Lady Harriet Sullivan,
 Lady Ford,
 Mrs. Angerstein,
 Mrs. William Bosanquet,
 Mrs. Richard Croft,
 Mrs. Denman,
 Mrs. Charles Drummond,
 Mrs. William Gosling,
 Mrs. Ashby Latham,
 Mrs. Ewan Law,
 Mrs. Manning,
 Mrs. Prinsep,
 Mrs. Porcher,
 Mrs. Ryder,
 Mrs. Sullivan,
 Mrs. William Thornton.

Having stated thus much of the advantages of this institution in the benefits to be derived from it to the children of
hired

hired wet-nurses: and having shewn how much it is the interest of those, who receive the services of their mothers, to promote it: it remains only to say, that it is the intention of those benevolent gentlemen, who have established this Asylum, to extend the benefits of it, whenever the funds shall render it possible so to do, to such families whose situation in life obliges them to put out their children to wet-nurse, and who from their humble circumstances may lie open to the evils arising from such melancholy causes as have been here stated in a very summary manner. Were they detailed in all their shades and frightful magnitude, it would wring the generous heart; and humanity would shudder at the picture of those miseries

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which

which snatch the infant from the bosom of its mother to precipitate it into the tomb.---

It is also an object of this institution to remedy the inconveniences which families suffer, and the risks they incur from the difficulty of obtaining healthy and reputable wet-nurses, and experienced dry-nurses. It is intended that this Asylum shall supply them, having formed regulations to that effect: and a register will at all times be kept open for public inspection of such healthy and reputable wet-nurses as are desirous of serving in private families upon wages established by the rules of the institution, and under the following regulations :

I. That

I. That the same allowance, which wet-nurses now make to dry-nurses, who by mis-management destroy their children, shall be paid to this institution for the protection and preserving of them; and that the said allowance shall be deducted from their wages when they are recommended into service, and their children left at the Infant Asylum; where, in consequence of such allowance, they are not only to be nursed and fed, but also clothed.

II. That wet-nurses shall be provided and maintained in the Asylum, to suckle such of these infant children as are not of an age to be weaned, and dry-nurses to take care of such as are; and the children

of such wet-nurses shall remain in the Asylum, and be fed, and clothed, and nursed, so long as their mothers continue to serve the institution. The succession of wet-nurses in the Asylum is so arranged, that they will not be required to suckle the children of others, until their own are of a proper age to be weaned.

III. That nurses having mothers or near relations, may leave their children with such mothers or relations; provided satisfactory proof be given, that the children are properly taken care of.

IV. That such women as shall have served the institution long enough to understand the management of children,
and

and such wet-nurses as shall have conducted themselves properly in the Asylum, as well as those wet-nurses who shall have been recommended out of it, and who, at the expiration of their service, shall produce a certificate of good conduct, will be registered and recommended as dry-nurses.

V. That every subscriber hiring a wet-nurse, if the child of such nurse be left at the Asylum, must pay in advance three months board for such child, at the rate of 5s. 3d. per week, the sum now usually paid by wet-nurses; the money so advanced to be deducted by such subscriber from the nurses wages: and in case of the death of the nurse's child

any

any balance remaining shall be returned to its mother.

VI. That every non-subscriber shall, on hiring a wet-nurse, pay two guineas towards the support of the institution, and make the same advance as a subscriber for the child of such nurse.

VII. That all nurses registered in this Asylum, and obtaining service under its recommendation, shall ask no greater wages, together with tea, or two guineas in lieu thereof, than

20 guineas for 12 months service,

17 guineas for 9 months service,

14 guineas for 6 months service.

RULES

RULES
RESPECTING THE MANAGEMENT
OF THE
INSTITUTION.

I. That as this Asylum has been founded, and it is hoped will be supported, by voluntary contributions, the number of subscribers shall be unlimited: they shall be denominated governors, and out of them a president, six vice-presidents, a treasurer, and a select committee of twenty-four, shall be elected for the management and direction of all affairs.

II. That

II. That the payment of twenty guineas shall constitute a governor or governess for life, who shall be entitled to recommend two wet-nurses annually: which nurses, if approved by the committee, or sub-committee, of the medical board, shall be registered, and their children taken into the Asylum.

III. That an annual subscriber of two guineas, shall also be a governor or governess, and shall have the same privilege of recommendation, subject to the same restrictions, as the governors for life, so long as the said subscription shall continue to be paid.

IV. That

IV. That the special control of affairs shall be in all the governors, who shall be convened quarterly within a fortnight after each quarter-day, and twelve shall constitute a Board.

V. That an abstract of the accounts shall be laid before the Board, and the minutes of the preceding quarterly or general meeting shall be read and submitted for confirmation.

VI. That the president, one of the vice-presidents, or treasurer shall take the chair at such general meeting of the governors, but in case none of them shall be present, any governor may be called to the chair, who shall preside accordingly.

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VII. That

VII. That none of the laws or regulations of this institution shall be altered or amended but at a general Board of the governors, or a general one specially convened for that purpose.

VIII. That all elections shall be by ballot, and that ladies, peers, and members of the house of commons, shall have the privilege of voting by proxy, such proxy being delivered by a subscriber.

IX. That the president, and vice-presidents, shall be chosen out of the governors for life, and not be removable annually. That upon the death or resignation of a president, or vice president, the same shall be notified in the summons of
the

the next general meeting, and that a successor is then to be ballotted for.

X. That twenty-four governors shall be chosen out of the remaining number of subscribers, who shall be annually elected at a general meeting to be held within a fortnight after the 25th day of the month of March in every year, and form a committee to act jointly with the president and vice-presidents.

XI. That the said committee shall meet weekly at the hour and place most convenient, at which the president shall take the chair, or in his absence, one of the vice-presidents, or treasurer: but if none of them should attend, then any

one of the governors, being of the committee, may be called to the chair.

XII. That the committee shall at all times be open to the treasurer and medical officers of the institution.

XIII. That five members shall constitute a committee to act upon all affairs relating to this Asylum, not specially reserved to the control of the general Board, and be invested with authority to make such rules and regulations, and give such directions for the internal management of the Asylum, as shall appear most adapted to the purposes of the institution: and shall report the same to the quarterly general meeting, in order, if necessary,
that

that they be added to the laws of the institution.

XIV. The committee shall have full power to suspend, or discharge any servant of this Asylum, whether specially appointed by a general Board or not, as the urgency of the occasion may demand.

XV. That the appointment of all servants shall be in the committee, except the treasurer, secretary, and matron, who shall be annually elected at the time of electing the general committee.

XVI. That the committee shall be empowered to encourage the good behaviour of any servant or servants, by the
distribution

distribution of such gratuities from time to time, as it shall judge proper; but not to make any permanent addition to any of the salaries established in this institution, without the sanction of a general quarterly Board, specially obtained for that purpose.

XVII. That the general committee be empowered to appoint sub-committees, for such particular purposes as it may judge proper.

XVIII. That the committee do annually, within a fortnight after their election, nominate from their own body, two auditors of accounts, whose duty it shall be, to examine at least once in every quarter, a
fortnight

fortnight previous to every quarter-day, all the accounts of the institution, and lay an abstract of the said accounts, audited and signed by them, before such general, or quarterly meeting, the same having been previously submitted to, and approved by the general committee.

XIX. That the payment of all monies by the treasurer, shall be made only to the order of the committee, signed by three of the members present, the chairman being one.

XX. That all monies received by the receiving bankers, the secretary, or matron, on account of this institution, shall be paid into the hands of the
treasurer,

treasurer, from time to time, as the general committee shall direct, and the said receiving bankers, treasurer, secretary, and matron, shall render an account of all monies they may have received and paid, whensoever by the said committee, they, or any of them, shall be called upon so to do.

XXI. That a committee shall be formed annually of such ladies as may be willing to undertake the office of special visitors and inspect into the management of the nurses and infants.

XXII. That the time of visiting shall be arranged amongst such ladies as are appointed special visitors, so as to insure to
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the Afylum the benefit of their inspection during the whole of the year.

XXIII. That the Afylum be also open to the ladies who are visitors, or subscribers, whenever it may be convenient to to them to inspect into the management of the institution. And as their visits will be highly acceptable, and their suggestions may be materially beneficial, a book will be left with the matron, into which it is requested they will enter any observations that may occur to them respecting the state and management of the Afylum.

DUTIES OF THE MATRON.

I. That the matron reside at the Infant Asylum, and have the superintendance of all nurses and servants.

II. That she examine all provisions brought into the House, and see their quantities ascertained.

III. That she do not suffer any provision brought to the Infant Asylum, to be purloined, wasted, or embezzled.

IV. That the matron do take charge of all household goods, furniture, &c.
&c.

&c. and give an account thereof whenever required, and report such repairs as may be necessary.

V. That no strong malt or spirituous liquors be allowed to be brought into the House, except with the approbation of the matron, under the direction of the Medical Board.

VI. That she take charge of the clothing, linen, and bed-furniture, and see that it be kept clean and in repair; and that it be her duty to receive all visitors, and attend, if required, to shew them the House.

VII. That she take care all the nurses and servants do their duty, and observe

the rules of the institution ; and that in case of misbehaviour, or neglect, she acquaint the Weekly Board.

VIII. That she keep a proper and clear account of all money expended, and subscriptions received by her.

IX. That she timely inform the medical attendants of any illness or indisposition happening to nurses or children.

X. That she examine every nurse and child before admission, and admit none but such as are healthy and clean.

XI. That she receive the children of nurses into the Asylum, on their producing the established order of the institution.

XII. That

XII. That she at all times produce the register for the inspection of subscribers or others, subject to the regulation of the institution; and keep an account of all visitors.

XIII. That she take no gratuity whatever herself, nor suffer any to be taken by others, either servants or nurses.

XIV. That she see the doors locked, and fires extinguished, at proper hours.

XV. That she read prayers morning and evening to the family.

XVI. That the matron's salary be five guineas per quarter.

DUTIES

DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.

I. That the secretary attend all general courts, weekly boards, and all other meetings of the governors or committees : That he keep the books and accounts of the institution in a methodical manner, and do all such business as is requisite and commonly done by secretaries and clerks at other institutions.

II. That he keep such registers of wet-nurses in the Infant Asylum, and different parts of the town, as shall be judged necessary or expedient by the committee, and correct such registers regularly once a week.

III. That

III. That he likewise act as collector, and receive 6*d.* in the guinea for all money collected by him.

IV. That the secretary's salary be ten pounds per quarter,

V. That he enquire, when directed by the Medical Board, the moral character of all wet-nurses enregistered for the public, or hired into the Infant Asylum.

VI. That he pay into the hands of the treasurer of the institution all the money he shall receive, according to such directions as may be given to him by the Weekly Board.

VII. That

VII. That he give security to the amount of four hundred pounds to the treasurer for the time being, for the due execution of the trust reposed in him.

LIST OF THE GOVERNORS.

PATRONESS,

HER MOST SACRED MAJESTY
THE QUEEN.

VICE PATRONESSES,

Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales
Her Royal Highness the Duchess of York.

PRESIDENT,

The Earl of Shaftsbury.

VICE PRESIDENTS,

The Right Honorable Lord Brownlow
The Right Honorable Lord Carrington
The Honorable Charles Fulk Greville, M. P.
Henry Thornton, Esq. M. P.
William Manning, Esq. M. P.
Henry Hugh Hoare, Esq.

TREASURER,

Henry Hoare, Esq.

AUDITORS OF ACCOUNTS,

Timothy Brent, Esq.
D. H. Wilson, Esq.

*N. B. Those Marked ** in the following List are Governors for Life, who have subscribed Twenty Guineas, or upwards.—Those Marked * are Annual Subscribers of Two Guineas, or upwards, and have contributed towards furnishing the House. —The remainder are Annual Subscribers.*

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- William Blake, Esq. Bedford Square
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- Mrs. Blackburn, Ditto
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- William Bofanquet. Esq. Upper Harley Street
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- Samuel Bofanquet, Jun. Esq.
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- **Mrs. Gosling, Ditto
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- *John Gunning, Esq. St. James's Place
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H.

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- *Mrs. W. Heberden, Dover Street
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- Miss Haldimand, Battersea Rise

Mrs.

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 Quarles Harris, Esq. Crutched Friars
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 Mrs. H. Hoare, Ditto
 **Henry Hugh Hoare, Esq. Ditto
 **Charles Hoare, Esq. Ditto
 **Henry Meyrick Hoare, Esq. Ditto
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Miss Keppel, Pall Mall

L.

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*Mrs. Lang, Finsbury Square

Mrs. Law, Lower Brook Street

*Samuel Long, Esq. Hill Street

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Mrs. Lloyd Williams

Mrs. J. B. Loufada

**John Lubbock, Esq. Stratford Place

Mrs. Lubbock, Ditto

Mrs. Larkins

M.

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